

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 IO-14 FRB-02 DRC-01 /177 W

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R 200815Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5834

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2236

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, EAID, EFIN, IR

SUBJ: IRAN'S PROPOSALS TO ASSIST LDC'S THROUGH IMF/IBRD

REF: A. TEHRAN 1726 B. TEHRAN 1673

1. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT US MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT APPROVING GENERAL DIRECTION SHAH'S PROPOSALS FOR PROVIDING RESOURCES THROUGH THE IMF/IBRD FOR ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES AND FOR PURCHASE OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCY BONDS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT NO US COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO ANY PROGRAM CAN BE MADE WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BUT IMPORTANCE SHAH ATTACHES TO OUR GENERAL APPROBATION CANNOT BE GAINSAID. FINANCE MINISTER AMOUZEGAR POINTED OUT TO FORMER DCM HECK (REF B) HOWEAGER GOI IS FOR AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROPOSED SCHEME. ALTHOUGH GOI STILL HAS NOT PRESENTED DETAILS, PROPOSALS WERE FIRST MADE NEARLY FOUR WEEKS AGO AND THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE OF GROWING IMPATIENCE THAT NO MAJOR POSSIBLE DONOR, SAVE WEST GERMANY, HAS EVEN MADE APPROVING NOISES. A US STATEMENT WOULD DO
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MUCH TO PREVENT ANOTHER IRRITANT FROM CREEPING INTO US-IRANIAN

RELATIONS. WHILE THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY A GOOD REASON FOR MAKING A MOVE IN FOREIGN POLICY, IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT WITH THE APPROPRIATE CAVEATS CONCERNING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL INCLUDED, WE LOSE LITTLE AND STAND TO GAIN AN EXTRA MODICUM OF GOOD WILL WE MAY NEED LATER ON.

2. IT SEEMS ALSO WORTH REPEATING OUR CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT IRANIANS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OBTAINING SAUDI ARABIAN SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS. GOI PROBABLY KNOWS OTHER PERSIAN GULF STATES WILL NOT GO ALONG WITHOUT SAG PARTICIPATION. (KUWAIT HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL NOT.) INDEED, SAUDI INDIFFERENCE TO SHAH'S PROPOSALS MAY WELL SOUR GOI/SAG RELATIONS TO LOWER POINT THAN ANY SINGLE INCIDENT IN RECENT PAST, INCLUDING IRANIAN OCCUPATION OF ABA MUSA AND THE TUNBS. THE SHAH HAS SEVERAL TIMES MENTIONED HIS IMPATIENCE WITH THE SAUDIS AND HIS DISTAIN AT THEIR DESIRE TO ESTABLISH AN ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK WHICH HE REGARDS AS HEAVILY "POLITICAL."
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